

# The Cold War

U.S. History & Government



Classwork packet – Ms. Vanderpool

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Per. \_\_\_\_

# The Cold War

## I. Definition:

Iron Curtain: "...an iron curtain has descended across the continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of central and Eastern Europe...All are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence, but to a very high and increasing measure of control from Moscow."

- Winston Churchill, March 5, 1946

**Comprehension Question:** How might the United States support for "self-determination" conflict with the Soviet Union's desire for security in Eastern Europe at the end of the war?

## II. Background

### a. Nato v. Warsaw:

-

### b. Division of Europe after WWII:

-

### c. Atomic Bomb:

-

### d. Spanned several Presidential administrations:

-

**Comprehension Question:** Predict the impact that nuclear power would have on the balance of power in the world after World War II.

### III. Domestic Events:

a. Loyalty Oaths:

-

b. HUAC:

-

- accused spies: Alger Hiss, Whittaker Chambers, Ethel & Julius Rosenberg

c. Joseph McCarthy: guilt by accusation, association and assumption

-

**Comprehension Question:** Was the Cold War inevitable?

## The Cold War: Video Guide

1. At the end of World War II, the Russians and Americans had genuine admiration of one another. These feelings were based on sharing the same viewpoint. On what were they based?
2. What does the term *Cold War* mean? How did each side try to gain the advantage?
3. What message did dropping the atomic bomb by the US send to Stalin of the USSR?
4. Winston Churchill talked of the Soviet Union putting up an *Iron Curtain* in Eastern Europe. What did he mean?
5. What was the Truman Doctrine?

6. What did the *Marshall Plan* do for Western Europe?
7. What did the Soviets do in Berlin and how did the Allies (US, Britain, France) respond?
8. What was NATO? What was the Warsaw Pact?
9. Why did dropping the atomic bomb by the USSR cause so much alarm in the US?
10. What did China's conversion to communism mean for the US?
11. What was the end result of the Korean War?
12. What was the purpose of the *Berlin Wall*?
13. Detail what happened during the *Cuban Missile Crisis*.
14. Why was the US involved in Vietnam?
15. What was détente?

# The McCarthy Hearings

Senator Joseph R. McCarthy's spectacular career reached its turning point in 1954. Having found fame as a self-styled Communist hunter, McCarthy went too far when he accused the U.S. Army of harboring Communists.

In hearing held in April and May of 1954, McCarthy met his match in Joseph Welch, the Army's defense attorney. Welch showed that all of McCarthy's charges were without substance.

In the following interrogation of McCarthy aide Roy Cohn, Welch deals with McCarthy's charges of Communists at the Monmouth Arsenal [military warehouse].

## In Their Words

**Welch:** [Mr. Cohn]When you find there are Communists and possible spies in a place like Monmouth, you must be alarmed, aren't you? I don't want the sun to go down while they are still in there. Will you not, before the sun goes down, give those names to the FBI?

**Cohn:** Mr. John Edgar Hoover [head of the FBI] and his men know a lot better than I...I do not propose to tell the FBI how to run its shop.

**Welch:** All I am suggesting is that we nudge them a little.

**Cohn:** Surely, we want them out as fast as possible, sir.

**Welch:** May I add my small voice, sir, and say whenever you know about a subversive or a Communist or a spy, please hurry. (At this point Senator McCarthy interrupts, and makes an accusation.)

**McCarthy:** I think we should tell Mr. Welch that he has in his law firm a young man named Fisher who has been for a number of years a member of an organization named as the bulwark of the Communist Party...

**Welch:** Until this moment, Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness...Little did I dream you could be so reckless and so cruel as to do an injury to that lad [Fisher]. I fear he shall always bear a scar needlessly inflicted by you...Let us not assassinate this lad [Fisher] further, Senator. You have done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?

## Follow-Up Questions:

What is the purpose of Joseph Welch's advice to Roy Cohn?

How does Welch reply to McCarthy's accusation?

# The Cuban Missile Crisis

The Cuban Missile crisis is the crisis-point of the Cold War. It is the time when the world came nearest to annihilating itself.

## Causes

Tensions between East and West are never far below the surface but in the lead up to the crisis they had become very dangerous.

### 1. Tension between USA and USSR

#### a. The Arms Race

In 1949 the USSR produced its own atomic bomb. This started an arms race with the USA:

- 1952: **Hydrogen Bomb** produced by the USA; the USSR followed suit the next year.
- 1957: **ICBM** (Inter-continental ballistic missile) developed by the USSR, which could reach the USA from a firing point in the USSR; The USA responded with their own ICBM (the *Atlas*) soon afterwards, which they placed in Turkey.
- 1958: **Sputnik 1** (the first earth satellite) launched by the USSR; the USA launched their own a few months later.

*By 1960, the Soviet Premier, Khrushchev, felt like a man boxed in by enemies. For example, he cited the U.S. missiles in Turkey just 150 miles from the U.S.S.R. Cuba is only 90 miles off the coast of Florida but the 60 mile difference is "nothing for a missile," Khrushchev said. Most of all, however, Khrushchev feared a first-strike by the U.S. If the Soviet Union lost the arms race so badly, he worried, it would invite a first-strike nuclear attack from the U.S. Consequently, Khrushchev began looking for a way to counter the United States lead.*

#### b. Hot Spots

East and West had also come very close to direct conflict on a number of occasions since 1945:

- Berlin Blockade (1949)
- Korean War (1950-53)
- Berlin Wall (1961)

### 2. Tension between USA and Cuba

#### a. Fidel Castro gets friendly with USSR

- **1959:** the Communist Fidel Castro took power in Cuba. This is very threatening to the USA because it is right next to America.
- **1960:** Castro made a trade agreement with Russia, whereby Cuba sent sugar to Russia, in return for oil, machines and money. This frightened the Americans more, and they stopped trading with Cuba. In retaliation, Cuba nationalized all American-owned companies.

#### b. The Bay of Pigs and its aftermath

- **1961:** In April 1961 the CIA encouraged, funded and transported an attempt by anti-Castro Cuban exiles to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. It failed miserably, greatly embarrassing Kennedy. In September 1961, therefore, Castro asked for – and Russia publicly promised – weapons to defend Cuba against America.
- **1962:** The US Armed Forces conducted a mock invasion of a Caribbean island to overthrow a fictitious dictator whose name, Ortsac, is Castro spelled backwards. Additionally, the U.S. is drafting a plan to invade Cuba (Operation Mongoose). The mock invasion and invasion plan are devised to keep Castro nervous.

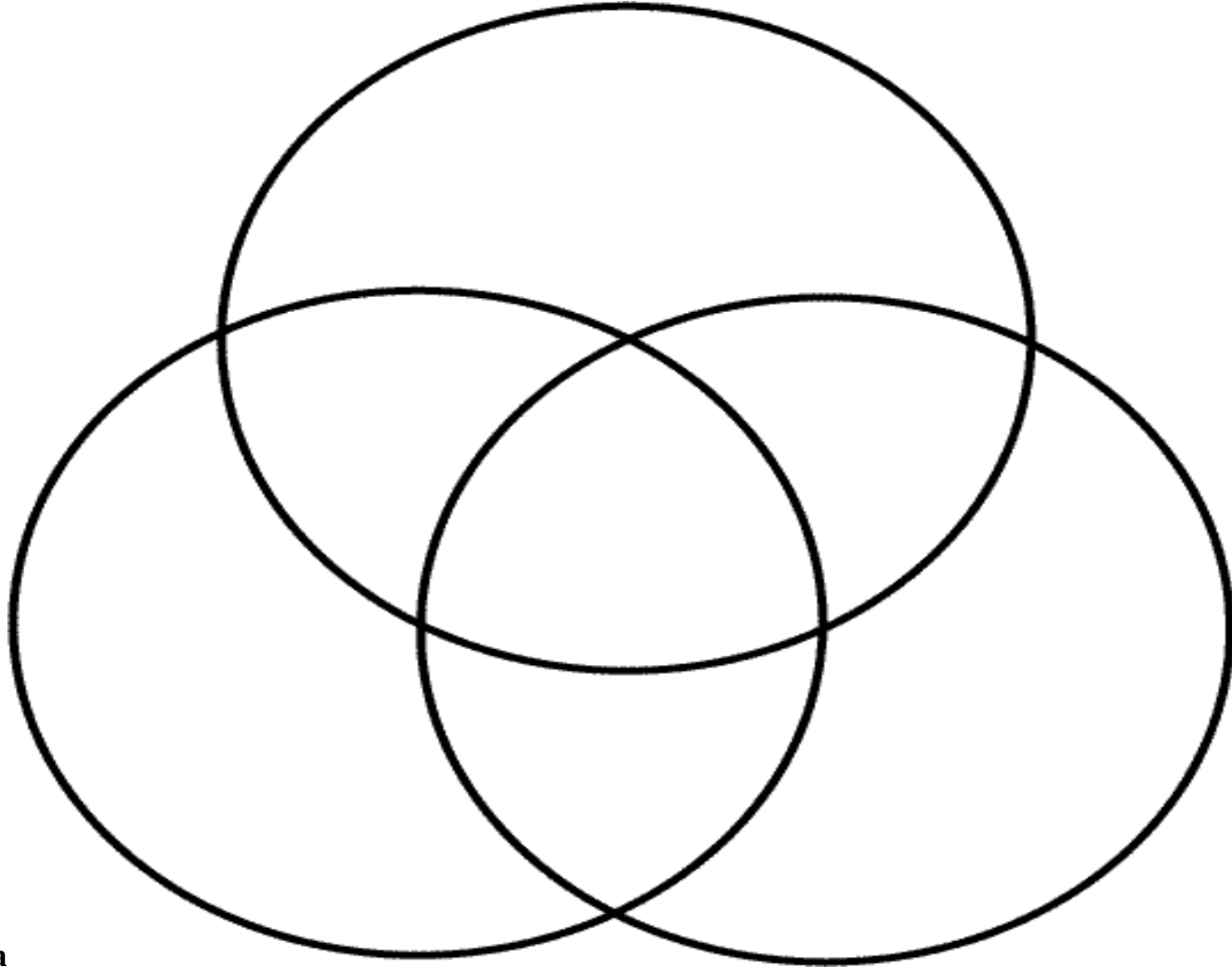
### 3. The Outcome: The World comes to the brink of Nuclear Holocaust

On **14 October** an American U2 spy-plane took pictures of a nuclear missile base being built on Cuba. Kennedy's advisers told him he had 10 days before Cuba could fire the missiles at targets in America. The situation now looked deadly serious.

# ***Causes of the Cuban Missile Crisis***

***Instructions:*** Using the material provided fill in the Venn Diagram with causes of the Cuban Missile Crisis in each country.

**United States**



**Cuba**

**U.S.S.R.**

# Cuban Missile Crisis Activity

## Critical Thinking Question A:

You are a presidential advisor to Kennedy. You must decide whether the President should be concerned about Soviet missiles and launch pads in Cuba. What do you advise the President to do? Kennedy has asked you to brainstorm possible U.S. responses to the Soviet missile threat in Cuba. What will you include on your list?

## Critical Thinking Question B:

You are a member of the Executive Committee, known as ExCom, a group of Kennedy's closest advisors gathered to help him work through this crisis. The president has asked you to assess the five possible responses. How would you prioritize these possible responses? What are the positive and negative aspects of each?

## Critical Thinking Question C:

You are a member of ExCom. Respond to the four situations the President might face, keeping in mind his goals for the crisis as outlined in Top Secret Briefing C. Then offer your recommendation for what the president should do now.



# Cuban Missile Crisis Notes

## Scenario A

Kennedy's advisors agreed that the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba were a great threat.

- Cuban missiles redressed the balance of power

October 1962

\_\_\_\_\_

U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ USSR \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in Cuba would even the balance.

- Also worried that the U.S. would look weak.
- Possible responses:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

## Scenario B

- Early arguments amongst advisors called for \_\_\_\_\_.  
Kennedy felt this was too risky
- Decided on a \_\_\_\_\_

## Scenario C

- Public fears \_\_\_\_\_
- Military begins to \_\_\_\_\_
- At the last possible moment Soviet ships honor the blockade
- Khrushchev offers Kennedy a deal:
  - USSR takes its missiles out of \_\_\_\_\_, in exchange for the U.S. removing its missiles from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Kennedy agrees \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ refuses to move missiles from Turkey.
  - Soviets agree and Kennedy's brother, \_\_\_\_\_, Attorney General, negotiate the treaty.

## **Cuban Missile Crisis Follow-Up Questions**

At what stage in this activity did you feel the most pressure?

How does it make you feel to know that in 1962 the world came so close to experiencing nuclear war?

Which sided, the U.S. or the USSR, do you think was most at fault for bringing about the crisis? For ending the crisis?

What lessons can be learned from the Cuban Missile Crisis?

# The Vietnam War: Video Guide

Following French colonial rule how was life different in North Vietnam and South Vietnam?

Who were the Viet Cong?

How did Vietnam turn into a Cold War conflict?

What was the Domino Theory?

How did Diem treat the South Vietnamese people?

Why was the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution controversial? Why was it significant?

What were some of the challenges that American troops faced in Vietnam?

What was the U.S. strategy in Vietnam?

What were the psychological ramifications of the Tet Offensive?

What was the New Left? Who were they?

What were some of the forms of resistance to the war in the United States?

What role did the media play in the perception of the war at home?

What did the U.S. agree to at the Paris Peace Accords?

What is the legacy of Vietnam in the United States?



## President Lyndon B. Johnson, April 7, 1965



Tonight Americans and Asians are dying for a world where each people may choose its own path to change. This is the principle for which our ancestors fought in the valleys of Pennsylvania. It is the principle for which our sons fight tonight in the jungles of Vietnam. Why must we take this painful road? ... We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American president has offered support to the people of South Vietnam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Vietnam defend its independence. And I intend to keep that promise.

To dishonor that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong. We are also there to strengthen world order. Around the globe from Berlin to Thailand are people whose well-being rests in part on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked. To leave Vietnam to its fate would shake the confidence of all these people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America's word. The result would be increased unrest and instability, even wide war.

We are also there because there are great stakes in the balance. Let no one think for a minute that retreat from Vietnam would bring an end to the conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another...To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next. ...

## Robert F. Kennedy, Mid-1960s

I think that what we are doing in South Vietnam is a mistake. I think the course that we are following is in error. But, I am saying that as a United States Senator and want to have what I say analyzed on that basis. I've always said unless it is clear that it's their war and we are over there to help them that we can't win.

Now they have had corruption and lack of land reform, they failed to put in the democratic procedures that we should have and the democratic processes. ... Unless they change, unless there is a drastic change, the people of South Vietnam are not going to feel the loyalty to them to Saigon — rather to the Viet Cong and feel that it's worthwhile — they're making the sacrifice — they're making the effort.

First we were making the effort there so that people had their own right to decide their own future and select their own form of government. And it wasn't going to be imposed on them by North Vietnam. We had the support of the people of South Vietnam. I think that's why we were involved in that struggle. That's certainly the way I looked at it when I was in President Kennedy's administration and in President Johnson's...

... Our whole moral position changes it seems to me.

Do we have the right here in the United States to say we are going to kill tens of thousands of people, make millions of people as we have refugees, kill women and children as we have...



## ***Comparing the Korean, Vietnam, Iraq Wars***

**Instructions:** Read the descriptions of the Korean, Vietnam and Iraq wars. After reading, work with your partners to complete the comparison grid below. Come up with three characteristics upon which you will compare each conflict (ex: cause of conflict, strategy to win conflict, casualties, outcomes) and write out how they are similar or different. When your grid is finished, answer the summary question at the bottom of the page.

Characteristics	Korean War	Vietnam War	Iraq War	
1.				Similarities
				Differences
2.				Similarities
				Differences
3.				Similarities
				Differences










Summary Question: Which was the "best" war? Explain.

## Legacies of the Vietnam War

<b>Kent State and Student Protests</b>	<b>Draft Dodgers</b>	<b>Effects on Soldiers</b>
<b>War Powers Act</b>	<b>Future American Involvement</b>	<b>Cost: Money, Casualties, World Opinion</b>

# US Methods During the Cold War





































**Instructions:** Below is a list of nine methods the United States used to prevent the spread of communism and to promote American-style democracy and capitalism during the Cold War. Carefully examine the symbol for and read the explanation of each method.

Symbol	Category	Cold War Method
	Boycotts and Economic Sanctions	Attempting to destabilize a communist country by limiting or withdrawing the exchange of goods, knowledge, technology, or cultural contact.
	Building up Defenses	Allocating a large percentage of the U.S. budget to the construction of nuclear arms and a powerful military to counter the Soviet defense buildup and discourage Soviet aggression.
	Clandestine Operations	Working in secret, often through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), to fix elections or conduct assassinations, coups, or smear campaigns to keep Communist leaders in a country from rising to power.
	Economic Aid	Providing a country with funds, expert advice, or humanitarian aid to promote its economic health and political stability and to foster positive feelings toward the United States.
	Forging Alliances	Creating a strong relationship in which the U.S. and another country pledge to support each other in efforts to prevent the spread of communism and promote the spread of democracy.
	Military Aid	Providing weapons and military advice to a country to help it defend itself against the threat of communism from either external influences or internal Communist revolutionaries.
	Negotiations	Talking with Soviet or Communist leaders to arrive at agreements that reduce the communist threat by lessening the Soviets' military threat or political influence.
	Promoting U.S. Business Interests	Maintaining stable, friendly relations with a country to promote the interests of American corporations doing business there.
	Proxy Wars	Avoiding direct conflict with the Soviet Union by providing military and economic aid to countries, or groups within countries, who were willing to fight against communism. In such cases, the United States and the Soviet Union provided military support to opposing groups in a warring nation so as to influence the outcome of the war without actually fighting against each other and bringing on nuclear war



# Analyzing Late Cold War Events

**Instructions:** Read over the provided materials for each event. Fill in the summary for each event. Circle the symbols that match the U.S. methods reflected in the event.

Event	Summary of Event	Matching Symbols
Nixon's Policy of Détente (1969-1974)		        
Carter's Human Rights Initiatives (1977)		        
Revolution in Nicaragua (1979)		        
Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan (1979)		        
Reagan's Defense Buildup (1980s)		